

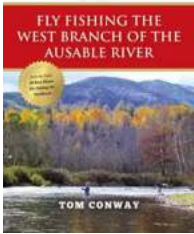
The Ultimate Guide to Fly Fishing The West Branch Of The Ausable River



Fly fishing enthusiasts are always on the lookout for new and exciting locations to test their skills. One such place is the West Branch of the Ausable River, nestled in the heart of the beautiful Adirondack Mountains in upstate New York. This pristine river offers anglers an unforgettable experience surrounded by stunning natural beauty and an abundance of trout. In this guide, we'll dive deep into everything you need to know about fly fishing the West Branch of the Ausable River.

Why Choose the West Branch of the Ausable River?

The West Branch of the Ausable River is a paradise for fly anglers, and it offers several unique advantages that make it a top choice for fishing enthusiasts:



Fly Fishing the West Branch of the Ausable River

by Iván Aira (Kindle Edition)

★★★★★ 5 out of 5

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- **Abundance of Trout:** The West Branch is known for its healthy population of wild brown and rainbow trout. These trout provide an exciting challenge for anglers of all skill levels.
- **Pristine Waters:** The river's crystal-clear waters are perfect for fly fishing. The steady flow and excellent water quality create an ideal habitat for trout to thrive.
- **Stunning Scenery:** Surrounded by the picturesque Adirondack Mountains, fishing the West Branch is a visual treat. The river cuts through lush forests and offers breathtaking views at every turn.
- **Varied Fishing Spots:** The West Branch offers a mix of deep pools, narrow channels, and slower stretches, making it suitable for various fly fishing techniques.

Best Time to Visit

The West Branch of the Ausable River can be fished all year round, but certain periods offer more favorable conditions for casting your line. The prime time to visit is during the spring and fall seasons when trout are most active and feeding aggressively. The cooler temperatures and increased

insect hatches make the trout more willing to bite. However, summer and winter fishing can also be rewarding for dedicated anglers, as long as you adjust your tactics accordingly.

Fly Selection

When it comes to fly selection, it's essential to match the local insect hatches. The West Branch is home to a wide variety of insects, including mayflies, caddisflies, stoneflies, and midges. It's recommended to carry an assortment of dry flies, nymphs, and streamers to cover various hatch scenarios.

Some popular fly patterns for the West Branch include:

- Adams dry fly
- Elk Hair Caddis
- Woolly Bugger
- Pheasant Tail Nymph
- Zebra Midge

Access Points and Tactics

The West Branch of the Ausable River spans approximately 26 miles, offering multiple access points for anglers to explore. The most popular access points include:

- Wilmington: The stretch near Wilmington offers excellent wade fishing opportunities with easy access from the Route 86 parking areas.

- Ausable Forks: This area is known for its productive riffles and deep pools, making it a favorite spot for both wade and boat fishing.
- Lake Placid: Fishing near Lake Placid provides access to stretches with calm water and pockets that hold large brown trout.
- Keene: Keene's section offers a mix of fast runs and large boulders, ideal for anglers who enjoy a bit of adventure.

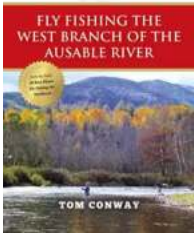
While fishing the West Branch, using stealthy approaches and presenting your flies accurately are crucial tactics for success. The trout in this river can be challenging to fool and have a keen sense of their surroundings. Using longer leaders and lighter tippets can also improve your chances of a successful catch.

Conservation and Regulations

Conserving the health of the West Branch of the Ausable River is of utmost importance to preserve its natural beauty and thriving fish population. When fishing this river, it's vital to adhere to local regulations, such as catch-and-release policies, proper waste disposal, and respecting private property boundaries. By practicing responsible fishing, you can help maintain the ecological balance and ensure future generations can enjoy this remarkable fly fishing destination.

The West Branch of the Ausable River is a true gem for fly fishing enthusiasts. With its abundance of trout, pristine waters, and breathtaking scenery, it offers an unforgettable experience for anglers of all levels. Whether you're a seasoned fly fisherman or a beginner looking to explore a remarkable fishing destination, the West Branch of the Ausable River will

not disappoint. So pack your gear, plan your trip, and get ready to create memories that will last a lifetime.



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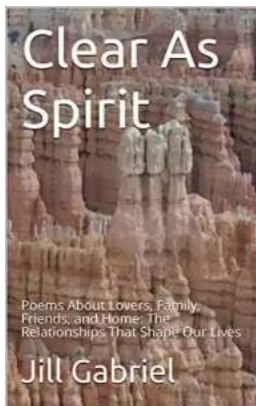
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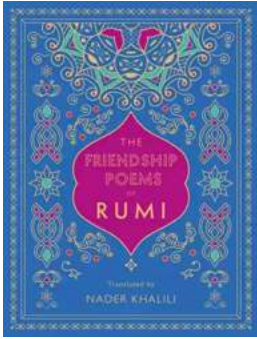


Written by an expert outfitter with boots in its waters, this piece includes a detailed map with access points along the river, information about gear, seasonal hatches, local lodges, fly shops, restaurants, watering holes, and closest medical care, along with the sort of intimate, insider information only someone working on the river can share.



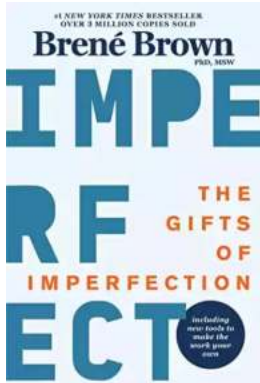
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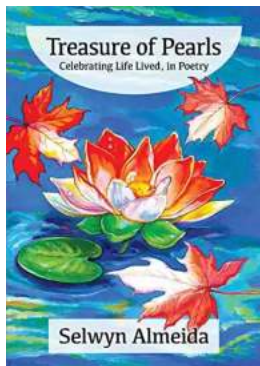
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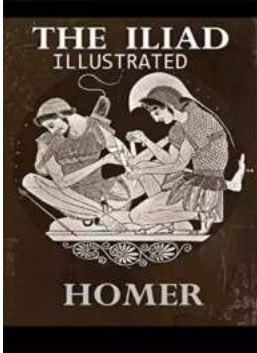
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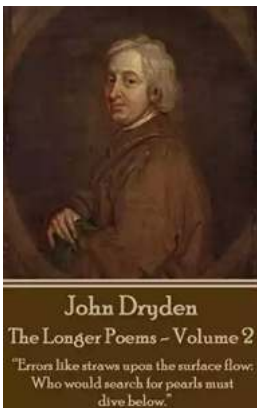
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